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Remarks

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Office Action mailed June 14, 2006. A Petition for Extension of Time to Respond is submitted herewith, together with the appropriate fee.

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement, defining 4 groups of claims as follows:

- Group I: Claims 1-15, 18 and 20-34;
- Group II: Claims 16 and 17;
- Group III: Claims 19 and 42-43; and
- Group IV: Claims 35-41 and 44.

Applicants herein elect Group I claims and withdraw claims in Groups II, III and IV without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute withdrawn claims in divisional applications.

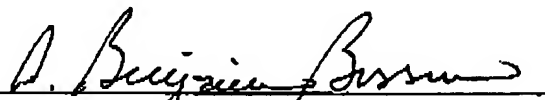
In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application constitute a single invention and request the Examiner to examine all the pending claims. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if he can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

Enclosed is a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for extending the time to respond up to and including today, November 14, 2006.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 14, 2006

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